

to a question.

PRESIDENT: Yes, before we do that, please, (gavel), members of the Legislature, please quiet your conversation down so we may hear. Senator Smith, I guess you are answering a question.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, I will try.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Smith, why was the Metropolitan Technical Community College excluded by this bill.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, they were excluded because they originally asked to be excluded when in 1984 when the levy legislation was changed and they have continued that position. The other thing is that LB 271 affects the Metro area only marginally. The real affect is in the rural areas because of population. There shouldn't be any really additional tax levy authority needed in the Metro area and it has not been affected as our other community colleges have been, Senator Abboud. They have been affected primarily because, in fact totally because of the declining farm valuations, the land valuations in the rural areas.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Smith, have property taxes been going down in your district?.

SENATOR SMITH: Absolutely not.

SENATOR ABOUD: If the valuation has been reduced, then why haven't the property taxes been going down?

SENATOR SMITH: Because this has just been implemented in the last year and we are still working with that process as I am sure you are aware. The thing that we are looking at here, Senator Abboud, is not increasing the amount of dollars that are going to be brought in. We are increasing the levy in order to make up for the declining valuation so that I want it very clear that we are not asking for additional dollars to support these programs that are already in existence. We are asking for the levy increase to make up for the declining valuations so that we continue to receive the same number of dollars.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Smith, if the tax levy goes up, let's say that agriculture turns around four years from now